DYSLEXIA—DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF READING DISORDERS—Edited by Arthur H. Keeney, M.D., D.Sc., Professor and Chairman, Department of Ophthalmology, Temple University School of Medicine; Ophthalmologist-in-Chief, Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Virginia T. Keeney, M.D., Project Coordinator, National Conference on Dyslexia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. (63103), 1968. 182 pages, $12.00.

This book is the product of a National Conference on Dyslexia, sponsored by the American Committee on Optics and Visual Physiology and the U.S.P.H.S. Neurological and Sensory Disease Service Program. The conference brought together fourteen distinguished participants to consider the controversial and often confusing topic of Dyslexia. The contents of the book, following the proceedings of the conference, are organized into four major sections, with verbatim reports of discussion following each section. Topics include definition, diagnosis, correlated functions and disturbances, etiology, historical considerations, remediation, and research needs.

The volume might well be titled "A Search for Identity." Definitional problems and confusions clearly point up some major theoretical issues of practical import. Is Dyslexia a specific, unique syndrome, or does the term merely define the most extreme end of the reading distribution? That is, are we dealing with qualitative as well as quantitative difference among poor readers? Participants were not always in agreement regarding this question. Difficulties of identification and diagnosis were apparent from the clinical descriptions presented. All participants agreed that dyslexics evidenced prolonged and severe reading retardation; there was less agreement as to consistency of behavioral and/or neurological and physical correlates. Consensus as to the need for early and accurate diagnosis was somewhat mitigated by the lack of agreement as to precise definitional or diagnostic criteria, whether appearing early or late in the developmental history. There was, for example, marked disagreement as to the diagnostic significance of motor clumsiness, and question as to the meaning of information pertaining to genetic characteristics. Participants were split on the question of appropriate remediation, ranging from support of programs strongly based in educational techniques to management programs utilizing medication, eye training, and motor coordination training. The majority of participants had strong doubts as to the efficacy of some popular motor training or patterning programs, although there was disagreement as to the importance of motor coordination training as it relates to Dyslexia.

In a volume of this kind in which all participants made thoughtful contributions, it is difficult to single out particular papers. However, the practicing physician will likely find the papers by Rabinovitch, DeHirsch, Critchley, and Goldberg of particular interest as they provide information of clinical relevance. Suggestions by Botel, Orton, Nicholl, Cruickshank, and Benton as to remedial and therapeutic practices provide the reader with some ideas as to the scope of remedial practices; none presents definitive evidence, but in total they provide a range in points of view. Critchley's final chapter points up the complexities of the subject by defining topics "worthy of research."

A major value of this book is that it may alert the practicing physician to the problems of the child with severe reading disurbance; it has limited theoretical or research significance; its real merit is in the clinical implications. Sensitivity to the problem of Dyslexia may be a major step in coping with the problem. In the foreword to the book Burian described Dyslexia as a subject "in flux" with "uncertain parameters." The reviewer heartily agrees with this description. The reader will find the book a stimulating and provocative introduction into a fascinating and complex topic.

BARBARA KEOGH, Ph.D.

* * *

HEREDITY, DISEASE, AND MAN—Genetics in Medicine—Alan E. H. Emery, M.D., M.Sc., Ph.D., M.R.C.P.E. University of California Press, Berkeley, California (94720), 1968. 247 pages, $6.95.

As the perusal of any daily newspaper will indicate, medical genetics is indeed a topic of immense interest to the general public. It is, therefore, rather timely for this review by Dr. Alan E. H. Emery of *Heredity, Disease, and Man: Genetics in Medicine.* As is stated in the author's preface, the book is written primarily for "high school and college graduates majoring in various scientific fields." Physicians need not be excluded, however, since it does represent an excellent review of a rather broad area of medicine in which advances in knowledge often exceed the ability for thorough comprehension by most physicians. Many of the signal experiments in our understanding of genetic diseases are outlined with clarity, with ample reference to common hereditary diseases rather than those obscure maladies so commonly used as examples in texts of this sort. For the reader unfamiliar with medical jargon, an excellent glossary is provided. Although appropriate for most readers, the bibliography is incomplete for the serious student of genetics. The rather complete index is a welcome addition, too often overlooked in texts designed primarily for non-medical readers.

The contents of a book of this type are always open to some criticism. A chapter on treatment of genetic diseases would be useful, particularly to the layman unfamiliar with research in this area. The relationship of genetics to organ transplantation is of such vital interest and importance in this decade as to warrant more thorough discussion. Increased used of pictorial and graphic material would improve some of the chapters and inclusion of photographs in place of some of the less sophisticated diagrams would give more impact to some of the important theories.

Two chapters deserve particular merit; those entitled "Chromosomes and Chromosomal Abnormalities" and "Genetics and the Physician." The former is an exceptionally thorough review of this rapidly growing field and the latter, a helpful discussion of genetic counseling and its problems.

This book represents the second in a series entitled *Perspectives in Medicine,* edited by Leo van der Reis, M.D., which is designed to bridge the gap between technical scientific knowledge and the practical understanding of it by interested medical and non-medical personnel. Professor Emery's review holds true to this charge.

HIBBARD E. WILLIAMS, M.D.

* * *

NEURORADIOLOGY WORKSHOP—Volume III: Non-Neopastic Intracranial Lesions – Leo M. Davidoff, M.D., Professor and Chairman Emeritus, Department of Neurosurgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York; Consultant in Neurosurgery, Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center, Bronx, New York; Harold G. Jacobson, M.D., Chief, Division of Diagnostic Radiology, Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center, Bronx, New York; Professor of Radiology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York; and Harry M. Zimmerman, M.D., Chief of Laboratory Division, Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center, Bronx, New York; Professor of Pathology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York. Grune & Stratton, Inc. 381 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. (10016), 1968. 577 pages, $34.75.

This text is the third volume of a four volume Neuro-